



### **What are the goals of the Early Childhood at the Academies program?**

The three main objectives of our early education program for three-year-olds are:

- The development of socialization skills
- The development of language skills
- The development of positive self esteem

### **How are these objectives met?**

The program addresses the individual child's total development. It promotes positive attitudes toward learning by guiding the child to success in multiple areas of discovery. Our faculty provides a safe and nurturing environment that respects and responds to a child's natural curiosity and desire to learn.

### **What is the educational philosophy on which the program is based?**

Early Childhood at the Academies is based on the "developmentally appropriate practice" established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Simply stated, this approach recognizes that children learn through active, meaningful interactions with their environment and peers, and with adults. Early Childhood at the Academies meets the challenge of providing the experiences and opportunities that help children learn and grow.

### **What activities does a typical day include?**

Activities are designed to establish foundations of social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth. There is a balance of quiet and active play. Each day, there is outdoor play. When weather prohibits, other large motor activities are provided. Children interact at small-group Learning Centers in the classroom that are thematically or academically organized. Learning Centers include: Dramatic Play, Building, Art, Nature, Sand Table, Water Table, Music, Computer and Quiet Reading.

The program is supplemented with instruction in art, music, dance, library and physical education. Each day, one special teacher works with the group. The physical education program incorporates swimming and ice-skating at different times of the year. Group activities such as story time, finger plays and music are an important part of each day. Each morning and afternoon, a nutritious snack is offered. Lunch is followed by dismissal of half day students. Full day students are engaged in an early afternoon group activity followed by rest time.

**What are the expectations for an entering student?**

Has turned three years old by August 31<sup>st</sup> or earlier  
Fully toilet trained and able to manage bathroom facilities independently  
Eager for and seeks out new activities and experiences  
Separates from parent without reluctance  
Is able to verbalize wants and needs

**What are the Early Childhood at the Academies scheduling options and costs?**Annual tuition schedule for 2007-2008 Academic Year:

Five full days a week \$11,000

Five mornings a week \$7,700

\*Lunch is included with all options.

Additional option:

Early Bird care (7:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m.) **NO FEE**

After School care (3-5:45 p.m.) \$6 per hour/\$400 per trimester

**What is the length of the school day?**

Class meets from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for children who attend half-day sessions and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for those attending the full day program.

**What care is available during vacations and school breaks?**

When sufficient parent interest exists, a full day program is offered for an additional charge during vacations and other school breaks.

**Does Early Childhood at the Academies have a dress code?**

Boys in the program wear navy-blue pull-up pants with white or red polo-shirts or turtlenecks. Girls wear navy-blue leggings with a red or white polo shirt or turtleneck. They have the option to wear an ECA uniform jumper, which may be purchased through Smith Industries. A red Early Childhood at the Academies sweatshirt is also available in The Albany Academies bookstore.

**How do I apply?**

Please complete the enclosed application, and return it along with the following:

Recent photo

Copy of your child's birth certificate

Recommendation Form

\$50 application fee

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please contact The **Albany Academies Admission Office at 518-429-2429**. An Admission Counselor is happy to address any questions and to schedule a day and time convenient for you to visit and tour the facilities and campuses.